

From: Rachelle Miele
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2024 12:42 AM
To: Budget Committee <BudgetCommittee@london.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] LPS Budget for PPM

Dear city council,

I am a citizen of London and a resident of Ward 13. I am sending this letter to urge you to vote NO on the recent budget ask from the London Police Service (LPS).

The proposed budget is a gross misuse of city funding and is not community focused. Crime rates are down and Londoners highest concerns centre around social issues including housing, food insecurity, mental health, access to healthcare, and substance use.

More police means more criminalization of already highly criminalized and marginalized folks as well as an increase in the criminalization of mental health and homelessness. More police does not lead to safer communities and having more police does not prevent crime - increased spending also does not lead to lower crime rates. Increased police budgets such as the one proposed by LPS increases the criminalization and over policing of marginalized folks including Black, Indigenous, racialized, 2SLGBTQIA+ folks, disabled folks, those living in poverty, and those experiencing several of these intersecting identities. Marginalized folks are not only likely to not receive help but are also at an increased risk of experiencing police violence.

What London needs is investment in our community and support services. At a time when community members are struggling and do not have basic necessities like food, housing, employment, and healthcare, the need to address social issues through community and care rather than policing is imperative.

This letter is for the public participation meeting (PPM) and I consent to have the letter part of the public agenda.

Dr. Rachelle Miele

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I acknowledge that Western University and King's University College are situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lunaapeewak, and Chonnonton Nations.

I may email you late at night or on the weekend. Please do not feel any pressure to respond outside of your typical working hours.